

VA Treatment

- VA physicians prescribed a beneficial drug known as a beta blocker for 94% of heart attack patients, a rate much higher than in the general health care system.
 - ♦ For heart attack patients treated during a one year period, receiving a beta blocker saved an estimated 481 lives over the following two years.
- VA's National Surgical Quality Improvement Program has developed models for assessing the majority of surgical procedures performed in VA facilities.
 - ♦ 30 day post-operative surgical death and complication rates in VA are now among the lowest in the United States.

*"I have great admiration for the VA.
I've been in a VA hospital in Arizona...
I know the great work that is being done."*

- ♦ **Senator Robert Dole, former Senate Majority Leader and World War II veteran, discussing his experience as a VA patient.**

Veterans Health System
Journal, December 1999

VA Prevention

- 77% of elderly patients with chronic lung disease treated in VA outpatient clinics received vaccinations for pneumonia.
 - ♦ By achieving this rate, an estimated 3,914 lives were saved over a two year period.
- Current rates of pneumococcal vaccination (77%) and influenza immunization (76%) in patients with chronic disease or over 65 years of age exceed both public and private sector benchmarks.
- Current rates of breast and cervical cancer screening (91% and 94% respectively) exceed both public and private sector benchmarks.

Published by
OFFICE OF QUALITY & PERFORMANCE (10Q)
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
810 VERMONT AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20420



Quality Checks

